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Agenda item 7
Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Appointment of three members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Note by the Secretary-General

1. On 20 February 1998, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all Member States informing them that the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed organizational session for 1998, would be called upon to appoint three members to serve on the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), when the term of office of three members expired on 30 June 1998. In the same note verbale, the Secretary-General requested Governments to submit the names and curricula vitae of candidates not later than 31 March 1998.

2. Under the provisions of the statute of the Institute, the Board of Trustees is composed of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Economic and Social Council, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Board serve in their individual capacities for a term of three years from the date of appointment. They are eligible for reappointment by the Council for one further term. The current membership of the Board is given in annex I below.

3. At its first regular session of 1983, the Economic and Social Council, on the proposal of the President, decided to maintain the existing de facto geographical balance of the Board without prejudice to any further decision the Council might wish to take with regard to the composition of the Board and the distribution of seats on it (see E/1983/SR.13). Accordingly, in order to maintain the existing geographical balance, the vacancies should be filled by the appointment of one member from the three regional groups concerned.

4. The candidates listed below were nominated by their Governments in response to the Secretary-General's note verbale. Biographical information on the candidates is contained in annex II below.

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African States

Mamosebi Theresia Pholo (Lesotho)

Jacob Félicien Andriampanjava (Madagascar)

Sheila Bunwaree-Ramharai (Mauritius)

Neddy Rita Matshalaga (Zimbabwe)

Western European and other States

Ana María Braga da Cruz (Portugal)

Cecilia Valcárcel Alcázar (Spain)

Latin American and Caribbean States

Esther María Ashton (Bolivia)*

* Member of the Board of Trustees from 1995 to 1998, therefore eligible for a second term.

Annex I

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Membership from 1 July 1997

	Term expires on 30 June
Selma Acuner (Turkey)	2000
Ihsan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan)*	1998
Esther María Ashton (Bolivia)*	1998
Zakia Amara Bouaziz (Tunisia)	2000
Maria Jonas (Austria)	1999
Noëlie Kangoye (Burkina Faso)	1999
Mona Chemali Khalaf (Lebanon)	1999
Norica Nicolai (Romania)	2000
Els Postel-Coster (Netherlands)*	1998
Glenda P. Simms (Jamaica)	2000
Amaryllis T. Torres (Philippines)	2000

* Retiring member.

Annex II

Biographical information on candidates for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Esther María Ashton (Bolivia). A career diplomat, has held the position of Chargé d'affaires of Bolivia to Denmark. Has held several prominent official positions, such as Counsellor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director for the North American Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bolivia. Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations; delegate to the Third Committee of the General Assembly and the Second Committee of the Economic and Social Council; has acted as Vice-Chairman of the Second Committee of the Economic and Social Council. Official delegate to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNICEF representative at the Joint Meeting of UNICEF/World Health Organization in Geneva. Member of the delegation of Bolivia to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, and to the Plenipotentiary Conference that adopted the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Mamosebi Theresia Pholo (Lesotho). Chief Executive and Corporate Secretary of the Water and Sewerage Authority. Has held the positions of Crown Counsel at the Civil Section of Law Offices, Public Prosecutor, Interpreter and Clerk of Court. Has participated in international training events dealing with such issues as gender training of trainers, international law and women's rights, research methods, data collection and report writing, gender in developing countries, violence against women, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Has presented papers on violence against women, women's rights, "Femicide" in Southern Africa and women and the environment. Member of several societies dedicated to law, women and development and women's political empowerment. Has been appointed as Commissioner on the Law Reform Commission in Lesotho. Member of the Advisory Committee for Privatization Unit and of the National Task Force for the Drafting of Lesotho's Gender Policy. Coordinator of the Review of Minority Status of Women and Lesotho's initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Jacob Félicien Andriampanjava (Madagascar). Director of Social Status, Ministry of Population and Solidarity. Has participated in numerous seminars, colloquiums and conferences dealing with social development, national reports on women, national policy on population, population and development, promotion of the socio-economic development of disabled young people, sustainable development and poverty. Has published research on such themes as tourism, urban problems, regional development and sea and coastal environment. Consultant to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning social development, economic planning and regional development and to the World Bank on a geographical-historical study on Madagascar. Has served as Director of numerous projects dealing with population, social development, social recovery, economic integration of the disabled, urban services for children. Member of the Administration Board of UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Tunis and Lebanon.

Sheila Bunwaree-Ramharai (Mauritius). Professor of sociology at the University of Mauritius. Lecturer on several areas of sociology having a large gender component. Supervisor of doctoral theses and undergraduate dissertations on gender-related topics. Consultant to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Ministry of Social Security on social development, focusing on gender and on the National Plan of Action.

Resource person for the Ministry of Women's Rights, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and the Ministry of Social Security. Chairperson of the Youth Research Unit for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, liaising with the Gender and Youth Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. Representative of the University of Mauritius to the National Steering Committee for the World Summit for Social Development and member of the official delegation attending the Summit. Working member and Secretary of the group that prepared the National Long-term Perspective Study sponsored by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and UNDP. Appointed Special Delegate to the ministerial meeting entitled "Forum for African Women Educationalists". Has published numerous studies related to gender, education, the economy, social exclusion, the marginalization of girls, sustainable development, ethnic schisms and economic nationalism, globalization, social science and development, human resources and women and the construction of the future.

Ana María Braga da Cruz (Portugal). Chief Adviser to the Commission for the Equality and Rights of Women, Northern Division, in charge of several functions: developing methodologies for the investigation and implementation of programmes; advising women's groups on questions related to the status of women; developing female-run market-oriented projects in rural areas; providing legal advice and psychological counselling; making contacts with women's groups and associations; coordinating training projects on cooperative and professional capacity-building, on professional management, on marketing of local crafts and on women migrants. Adviser to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on a mission for the organization of women of Mozambique. Adviser to UNFPA on a project evaluation mission to Guinea-Bissau and a fact-finding mission to Angola, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Adviser to UNDP on a consultative mission to Cape Verde to create an institute on the status of women, and to the European Anti-Poverty League to assist the Cape Verde Government in a poverty-fighting programme. Trainer in projects dealing with women in rural areas, security, health and social services; involved in the evaluation of projects coordinated by non-governmental organizations, a volunteer telephone counselling service for the prevention of suicide and the organization of seminars and colloquiums. Member of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Branch of the European Anti-Poverty League, the Association of Female Lawyers and the Association of Migrating Women. Founder-President of the Association of Maternal Health and founding member of the Portuguese Association for the Study of Women.

Cecilia Valcárcel Alcázar (Spain). Adviser to the University Institute for Women of the Autonomous University of Madrid. Consultant to the Gregorio Sánchez Foundation, designing projects aimed at the integration of a gender perspective. Adviser and Documentalist of Editorial Forum, S.A. Has designed and programmed cultural activities for the Móstoles City Hall in central Spain. Consultant and Adviser in equality projects. Has carried out research on issues concerning gender and citizenship, women in Spanish art and Latin American women.

Neddy Rita Matshalaga (Zimbabwe). Research fellow and consultant on Gender and Development Issues, Institute of Development Studies, University of Zimbabwe, contributing to the dissemination of research through the bulletin published by the Institute and other academic journals. Organizes gender training workshops, attends relevant seminars, prepares and presents papers related to gender and development studies and carries out consultancy work for governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations in the field of gender, development and other relevant issues. Has published several papers dealing with gender, urban food security and coping strategies in Zimbabwe, the urban informal sector and urban poverty in Harare, and the impact of structural adjustment on rural communities in Zimbabwe.